



ISSUES/DESCRIPTIONS REPORT

4th Quarter, 2008

WSBK-TV Boston

WSBK-TV/TV38 – Boston, MA
Quarterly Issues/Program List
CBS Corporation

December 31, 2008

Attached are listings of broadcasts or broadcast segments, which, in the station's judgment, reflect the station's most significant programming treatment of ascertained community issues during the preceding three-month period.

PROGRAM INDEX

WBZ-TV News on TV38 – WBZ-TV News on TV38 is the market's only broadcast newscast available at 9:00 p.m. Anchored by Kate Merrill, the newscast delivers a contemporary half-hour of news filled with comprehensive coverage of local politics, community events, medical updates, and issues of importance to the community.

Airs: Monday-Friday at 9:00 p.m.

Duration: 30 minutes

TV38 NEWS

Business & Political

10/01/08 The Senate to pass legislation tonight. New bill includes \$110 billion in tax breaks for businesses and the middle class. Plus a provision to raise the cap on the federal deposit insurance from \$100 thousand to \$250 thousand.

10/02/08 Barack Obama's campaign is using a new strategy to reach out to voters. They're own t-v channel. It's on the satellite provider - dish network. The channel just plays one of Obama's campaign ads repeatedly.

10/06/08 The Dow Jones plunged as much as 800 points before rebounding to just under 370 to close the day. The dip put the index below 10,000 for the first time since 2004. The decline is blamed on the credit crisis that has spread to the worldwide market. Also the presidential candidates get set to debate again.

10/07/08 Analysts say retirement pension plans have lost as much as two trillion dollars in the past 15 months.

10/17/08 A report that dozens of people walked into work only to find they'd lost their jobs. Some were employed by Ferguson Industries -- a state agency that offers services to the blind. The workers are blind themselves. Its all due to MA state budget cuts. Gas prices, however are dropping.

10/21/08 Obama plans to suspend his campaign on Thursday to visit his sick grandmother in Hawaii. A relative says 85 year old Madelyn Payne Dunham recently broke her hip and is gravely ill.

10/29/08 State Senator Dianne Wilkerson has now come forward saying she is innocent and is vowing to fight the bribery charges against her. Wilkerson could face up to 20 years in prison, on federal corruption charges. Also Presidential candidate, Obama, aired a ½ hour primetime add on many networks aimed at telling the stories of real Americans who are hungry for a new direction.

11/03/08 Before the presidential election John McCain is in New Mexico hoping to pull off a big comeback. And Barack Obama is in North Carolina and looks to hold onto his commanding lead as he copes with the death of his grandmother one day before the election.

11/04/08 Full election night coverage of Barack Obama's historic Presidential victory over John McCain.

11/06/08 Fidelity will cut 320 positions here in Massachusetts and 1300 company wide. They say its from the struggling global markets. Also, Obama chooses his Chief of Staff.

11/10/08 Speaker Sal Dimasi held a summit on Beacon Hill with leaders of the state's local banks and other lenders to help ease fears of any economic crisis in the state.

11/13/08 The Dow shot up more than five hundred fifty points and democrats continue to push forward with a bailout plan for the auto industry even though its passage seems unlikely. They hope to push the 25 billion dollar emergency proposal through next week during a lame duck session of congress.

11/17/08 Senior Senator Ted Kennedy returned to the senate for the first time since the summer and is ready to get back to work.

11/24/08 The average cost of a gallon of self-serve regular in Mass. has dropped below two dollars for the first time in more than three and a half years. Gas dropped seventeen cents in the past week to an average of a dollar ninety-one. That's more than a dollar less than last Thanksgiving. Also, in a rare pre-inaugural call to action Obama urged congress to pass a costly, job-creating stimulus bill quickly and before he took office.

11/26/08 President-elect Barack Obama's solidifying his economic team. Former Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker to head a new team of advisors. Obama says his team will include experts from business, labor and education and will provide a new look at the nation's economic problems and to suggest solutions.

12/01/08 Economists say the recession downturn could last well into 2009 and possibly beyond and it is expected to be the worst slump since the recession of the early eighties. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson says he is looking for more ways to distribute the 700-billion dollar financial rescue plan including alternatives for providing capital to financial institutions. And Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke contends there could be further interest rate cuts. Also, Senator Ted Kennedy has received an honorary degree from his alma mater Harvard University.

12/03/08 Automakers could be out of luck. The senate's democratic leader claims there will not be enough votes to pass the 34 billion dollar bailout plan. But the united auto workers union is willing to make concessions to get it approved. Also, State Street Bank plans to slash between 1600 and 1800 jobs or roughly six percent of its global work force between now and the end of the first quarter.

12/05/08 According to the Labor Department, 533,000 people lost their jobs last month, far more than expected and the highest monthly total since 1974. Overall the nationwide jobless rate jumped to 6.9 percent to the highest rate in 15 years.

12/08/08 Congressional Democrats led by Massachusetts' own Barney Frank hope to bring the auto bailout bill to a vote this week. It rushes emergency loans to the big three auto-makers. The proposed bailout would funnel roughly 15 billion dollars in loans to the auto industry at an interest rate of five percent for the first five years.

12/09/08 Illinois Governor Blagojevich charged with trying to sell President-elect Obama's senate seat. Mayor Thomas Koch of Quincy, MA spent thousands of dollars of grant money on "renovations" for his office: \$4,000 on a 47 inch flat screen, and \$18,000 on wall-to-wall carpeting. Koch announced today, he has plans to reimburse the city of Quincy the cost for these expensive furnishings and "donate the TV to an IT center". Half the money for the carpeting and TV was paid for by campaign financing, the other half picked up by taxpayers. And, a state military color guard and reenactors of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment have been invited to march in Barack Obama's presidential inaugural parade.

12/10/08 U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. questioned about possible involvement with the political corruption allegations made against Ill. Gov. Rod Blagojevich.

12/15/08 President George W. Bush dodges shoes thrown at him by an Iraqi television journalist during a press conference in Baghdad.

12/16/08 Federal Reserve slashes key interest rate to nearly zero hoping to help economy

12/18/08 Accountant Richard Vitale, the campaign treasurer for state House Speaker Salvatore Dimasi, accused of alleged lobbying and campaign finance violations.

12/19/08 Auto industry finally receives bailout thanks to conditional deal from White House.

12/23/08 Last minute holiday shoppers are out but the financial outlook on holiday spending is bleak.

12/26/08 Day after Christmas "bargain hunters" look to stretch budgets in grim economy.

Health & Medical

10/07/08 Drug companies are now warning to not give cough and cold medicines to kids under four. It's something the FDA has recommended.

10/13/08 Local doctors could wind up playing a role in fighting breast cancer halfway around the world. Two Chinese doctors traveled to Boston and got a first-hand look at some of the newest technology in catching the disease. Also a report that the American Academy of Pediatrics doubled its recommended daily intake of Vitamin D for infants and children. The group says its needed to prevent rickets and other diseases that weaken bones. Extra Vitamin D could also reduce the risk of cancer, diabetes, and even heart disease.

10/29/08 Are plastic baby bottles safe? The Food and Drug Administration says a key chemical used to make many of them, Bisphenol-A is safe, but environmental groups want to have the chemical banned, saying it can interfere with a child's development.

Canada has already labeled it a dangerous substance. And an independent panel of scientists says the FDA did not consider all the scientific evidence available in concluding the chemical is safe. Many manufacturers are already producing bottles and marketing them as BPA free.

11/3/08 A new study found pregnancy rates were much higher for teenagers who watched a lot of TV with sexual dialogue and behavior compared to those who don't watch as much. The study looked at 2000 12 to 17 year olds nationwide and asked how much they watched shows like "Sex and the City", "That 70's Show" and "Friends," all which have lots of sexual content. Pregnancies were twice as common among teens who watched such shows.

11/10/08 A consumer reports study found nearly half of Americans do not plan to get a flu shot. The most common excuse?: It's better to build your immunity. Then there are those who say they just don't get sick. There are the people who say they get sick from the shot! Others say it doesn't work.

11/17/08 The National Cancer Institute found out that exercising can reduce a woman's risk of getting cancer by as much as twenty percent. But the study also discovered that exercise can't help you if you aren't getting a good night of rest. They say getting less than seven hours a night eliminated the cancer fighting benefits of exercise.

12/03/08 When it comes to breast cancer a new study is revealing the importance of fast and complete radiation treatment. Researchers at Cornell University's Medical College found that for women over sixty-four with early breast cancer delays in post-surgical radiation significantly increased the risk of the cancer coming back and patients were more likely to die. Doctors say one in five older women patients are receiving delayed or incomplete treatment. A majority of the undertreated patients lived in high poverty areas.

12/8/08 A new study finds combining the Mediterranean diet with a handful of nuts each day may cut several risk factors for heart disease. The research found the regimen helped improve cholesterol and blood pressure. The Mediterranean diet is one rich in fruit, vegetables, and fish.

12/17/08 Doctors in the US perform country's first face transplant. The highly experimental procedure was the world's fourth partial face transplant, the country's first, and the most extensive and complicated such operation to date.

Law/Safety & Security

10/01/08 Governor Patrick to announce some serious cuts to the state budget. Also a story on the city of Boston trying to improve traffic; Over the past year, the city has been adjusting the time of its traffic lights to keep traffic moving.

10/06/08 A bay state crackdown on underage drinking appears to be paying off. It's called operation 'safe campus' and targets liquor stores near colleges in Massachusetts.

Investigators arrested nearly 400 minors who tried to buy alcohol. More than 160 adults were charged with buying for minors and 40 people were caught using fake ID's.

10/17/08 Boston police investigate a burglary at the Dorchester office of the community activist group, ACORN. Thieves apparently broke into the office on Adams Street and stole three computers. The group says it doesn't know if the break-in was politically motivated but called the timing suspicious. Nationally, the FBI is investigating whether ACORN committed voter fraud. ACORN denies any wrongdoing.

10/21/08 If a contract is approved police in Peabody will get paid extra for working on September 11th. That would be a first in the US.

10/29/08 An emotional day in Taunton for 180 families as they said goodbye to loved ones heading to Iraq. The 180 soldiers from the Massachusetts army national guard will be training Iraqi police.

11/3/08 The former Boston firefighter who lost his job for lying about a disability is now facing criminal charges. Albert Arroyo was arrested at Faulkner Hospital for violating a restraining order. He's accused of harassing and verbally threatening his ex-girlfriend Maria Montanez who lives in Jamaica Plain.

11/06/08 A Shrewsbury school bus driver is out of a job, for telling a nine-year old student to get off the bus and walk home along several busy roads. Serena Medbury had moved to the front of the bus without permission, because she said the ride is less bumpy there. The driver, Donald Davison Jr. yelled at Serena and told her to get off, even though she was a mile and a half from home. She would have had to walk along busy routes nine and 20, if a friend's father had not picked her up.

11/10/08 A new proposal by Governor Patrick would eliminate the tolls outside RT. 128, except for drivers coming in from New York state and Interstate 84 in Sturbridge. But that means tolls in Weston and inside 128 will most likely be on the rise.

11/13/08 The Energy Information Administration has revised its outlook predicting homeowners using oil will pay close to \$1700 this winter, nearly \$700 dollars less than projections a month ago. Also, New Hampshire may have its first execution in nearly seventy years after a jury convicted a man of murdering a police officer. 28 year old Michael Addison was found guilty of killing Manchester police officer Michael Briggs back in 2006. The verdict was read after three days of deliberations in front of Officer Briggs' widow and their sons.

11/24/08 Stop and Shop is recalling squash in prepared turkey and ham holiday dinners. It applies to 24 ounce sides of butternut squash. It's being issued because the squash contains an undeclared egg allergen and other quality issues. If you bought the item, you can return it to the store for a twelve dollar refund.

11/26/08 Extra security during the thanksgiving holiday weekend on Massachusetts MBTA trains. The FBI received intelligence about a "plausible but unsubstantiated"

report that Al Qaeda suicide bombers were considering an attack on New York's mass-transit system. Law enforcement agencies say there is no indication that anyone involved in the planning is in the US. Police in NY have also increased patrols.

12/03/08 Protestors opposed to toll hikes here in Massachusetts and made sure their opinions were heard. They stood at one of the harbor tunnels that would be affected by the hike to say they don't like the plan to raise tolls to help pay off a two-billion dollar "big dig" debt. They say the state turns too quickly to drivers, instead of looking at more innovative ideas like privatizing the transportation system.

12/05/08 He spent 33 years in prison for a murder he didn't commit. Now, 74 year old Peter Limone has been arrested again, this time accused of loan sharking and extortion.

12/08/08 The alleged mastermind behind the 9/11 attacks says he's ready to plead guilty to war crimes charges. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed is giving up his defense and faces the death penalty. Mohammed has said before that he wants to be executed so that he can become a martyr.

12/11/08 A state investigation found Hamilton, MA police routinely falsified EMT training records by claiming to have taken classes that were never held. The Office of Emergency Medical Services suspended the EMT licenses of nine officers saying the actions "endangered public health and safety." The agency also pulled the town's police-run ambulance license for at least one year, citing a pattern of alleged deception that goes back 10 years.

12/16/08 The killer of 6-year-old Adam Walsh has finally been named 27 years after the murder. Police say Adam Walsh was killed by Ottis Elwood Toole, who once confessed to the crime then later recanted.

12/29/08 Walpole High School football coach Daniel Villa faces charges of raping a female student athlete. Superintendent Lincoln Lynch received a complaint about inappropriate text messages last week between Villa and that student. Within hours, Villa had resigned from his job as athletic director and teacher at Walpole High School. Days later, police issued a warrant for his arrest on three charges of raping a child over the age of 14.

Community/Culture

10/02/08 A report on sixteen hard-working Boston teens getting rewarded at the Reebok store in Canton, MA. Mayor Menino gave the kids a shopping spree for their outstanding work at Camp Harbor-View. The camp teaches inner-city children about leadership, fitness and creative expression. The teens also got an all-expense paid trip to Disney World.

10/13/08 New Hampshire is concerned about the same beetles that have invaded Worcester. About 1600 trees in the Dover area there may have to be cut down because of the Asian long-horn beetle.

10/17/08 Thousands of rowers and many more fans will crowd the banks of the Charles River. They'll be angling for a good view of the races during the Head of the Charles Regatta. The world's largest two-day rowing event. It draws more than 7500 rowers from around the world and 300,000 spectators.

10/29/08 Sending your kid to college is tough but sending your kid to college here in Massachusetts is tougher than anywhere else. MA has the highest cost for a private four year education. The college board finds the cost of private 4-year colleges in this state now average more than \$32,000. It is the highest in the nation and its up five per cent from last year.

11/03/08 The Greater Boston Food Bank is already launching its annual turkey drive. Governor Patrick and Mayor Menino helped unload frozen turkeys headed to food pantries and soup kitchens. The organization hopes to provide 38,000 turkeys this year.

11/13/08 FCC Commissioner Robert McDowell conducted a town hall meeting at Emerson College to increase awareness on the switch to DTV. The digital transition happens February 17th of next year and that means people must be ready if they want to watch television.

11/17/08 Northeastern University is teaming up with the city of Boston to help city kids who attend the university to stay in college. This, after a private study out today tracked more than 2900 Boston public high school grads from the class of 2000. After seven years, 1904 had enrolled in a 2-or 4-year college but only 675 had received degrees.

11/24/08 An emotional day in Mansfield as a community says goodbye to a young soldier. Army specialist Corey Shea loved serving his country. He enlisted right after high school and was killed by an Al Qaeda attacker just months before he was supposed to come home.

11/26/08 Tom Brady and his girlfriend, model Gisele Bundchen, made a surprise appearance at the annual Morgan Memorial Goodwill Thanksgiving dinner. They served up hot meals and talked to the guests. Although they stole the show, there were other helpers at Goodwill today including Attorney General Martha Coakley and House Speaker Sal Dimasi.

12/01/08 Donations for the "Toys for Tots" program are down fifty percent from last year at this time. In Boston alone, there are thousands of unfulfilled requests and the warehouse is nearly empty. Volunteers are doing everything they can.

12/05/08 The Bay Colony dog show, which runs through Sunday at the Bayside Expo Center. Thousands of canines are there. Get close enough to pet the competitors, talk with breeders, and watch the animals compete for the highest honor of "best in show" .

12/08/08 A high school marching band from Londonderry, New Hampshire will take part in the Presidential inauguration in January. Also members of Massachusetts' 54th volunteer regiment have been invited to take part in Barack Obama's inaugural parade as well. Just last month the state re-activated the unit. The group represents an all-black regiment that fought in the civil war.

12/9/08 Capturing the high drama and stark beauty of historic polar expeditions, *To the Ends of the Earth, Painting the Polar Landscape* exhibit at Salem's Peabody Essex Museum presents more than 50 works by prominent artist-explorers, from monumental romantic canvases to early modernist works in pastel. Also, today was DTV Day in Boston featuring a market-wide educational outreach and soft shutdown program.

12/10/08 Charitable collections at all time low...Somerville Catholic Charities needs 265 toys for neighborhood children at Christmas, and they only have 21.

12/15/08 Thousands of toys collected by Dover New Hampshire Fire Department for their Toy Drive are ruined after flooding related to ice storm pours into the storage facility.

12/24/08 Like so many deserving charities feeling the economic pinch, the Salvation Army is in need of Christmas Kettle Donations

12/26/08 The recent extremely severe weather is creating a worse pothole mess in Mass than usual. And, as part of this year's First Night celebration, organizers will feature Monkeyhouse Contemporary Dance Theater.

'DTV Day' – December 9, 2008

To help viewers prepare for the federally mandated shutdown of full-power television analog signals and the transition to digital television (DTV) on February 17, 2009, all Boston market broadcast television stations and cable providers, in conjunction with Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA), chairman of the House Telecommunications and the Internet Subcommittee as well as the Massachusetts Broadcasters Association (MBA), have partnered to launch 'DTV Day' on Tuesday, December 9, 2008 from 5:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. 'DTV Day' is a market-wide educational initiative designed to let viewers know whether or not they are ready for DTV Transition. Here in the Boston market, all television stations and cable providers have come together to make this the most comprehensive, informational, and far-reaching readiness test in the country. Boston's 'DTV Day' is a three-pronged community awareness program:

- Intermittent daylong crawls on all outlets promoting DTV information on a single station (WGBH-TV analog)
- Daylong, uninterrupted DTV information on a single, destination station (WGBH-TV analog)

- Three, 2-minute ‘Virtual Shutdown’ readiness tests on all outlets at 5:15 a.m., 6:15 a.m., 5:15 p.m.

Here’s how Boston’s ‘DTV Day’ worked:

On Tuesday, December 9, 2008 from 5:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., all media outlets participated in a messaging campaign that involved the same DTV readiness information in English and/or in Spanish on crawls airing on all stations. What is above-and-beyond other markets, and unique to Boston, is that these crawls also directed viewers to go to a single destination station, WGBH-TV (PBS), to check if their sets are ready. WGBH carried a special, day-long alert for analog viewers and an informational program on how to make the switch to digital. A message on the screen told viewers their set was not ready, and listed a free phone number to call for more information.

As educational background, WGBH continuously ran the 30-minute program, Get Ready for Digital TV, featuring THIS OLD HOUSE hosts Norm Abram and Kevin O'Connor visiting Boston-area homes and giving hands-on guidance for checking TV sets for digital readiness. The program aired in English and Spanish. (Viewers whose sets are digital ready saw WGBH-TV’s regular program line-up.) Thanks to the combined promotional power of the media outlets and the daylong alert on WGBH-TV analog, viewers were able to access DTV Transition information at a time convenient for them. It also allowed viewers to have time to see and comprehend what DTV Transition means, check multiple TVs in the home, and even visit a neighbor or family member to help them get ready for DTV.

In addition to daylong crawls on the stations and content on WGBH-TV analog, all stations participated in a ‘Virtual Shutdown’ readiness test. The test occurred simultaneously across all channels at 5:15 a.m., 6:15 a.m., and 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, December 9. The tests lasted two minutes each and alerted television audiences whether or not their TV sets are ready for the DTV Transition through a full screen graphic alternating in English and/or Spanish that informed them of any steps they must take, if necessary.

This Quarterly Issues/Program List was placed in the Public File on January 10, 2008 by:

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